

October 23, 2018

9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION:

PRESENT:

Thomas Graham, Chairman
Armando Camacho, Vice Chairman
Eric Bowman, Commissioner
ShaRon Grayson Kelsey, Commissioner
Kenneth Miles, Commissioner
Benjamin Rupert, Esquire, Counsel
Terence Shepherd, Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Cristian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Derrick Anthony, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Kelly Markomanolakis, Administrative Assistant
Nikole Bennett, Administrative Aide

Time: 10:02 a.m.

In the matter of Substitution of Corporate Officers application, **t/a The Hotel at the University of Maryland**, Class B (BH), Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7777 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 20740, Linda M. Westgate to serve as Member/Authorized Person in the place and stead of Michael Franklin, Member/Authorized Person.

Applicant represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Linda Westgate stated that she is a resident of Laurel; that she is in the part of Laurel that is in Howard County; that she is a United States citizen; that she is a registered voter; that she moved shortly after filing the application.

Linda Carter requested that the application be amended to reflect the new address.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the request to amend the application, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

Linda Westgate stated that she is the General Manager of the hotel; that she has been there for six months; that she has been in the hospitality industry for 30 years; that she has been in management for 20 years; that she has worked at the Sheraton at Tysons, the Hilton in Baltimore, DoubleTree in Florida; that she has been on licenses before; that she is familiar with liquor licenses and what they entail; that she is familiar with the Rules and Regulations; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that you must be 18 to serve alcohol, 21 to consume; that the hotel is separating from the previous licensee; that the hotel is also taking over the operation of Maryland Grill; that the application is true and correct other than the changes they requested be made.

Mr. Camacho moved to grant the substitution of corporate officers, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of Edward J. Gilliss, Member, Donald C. Grauel, Member, Robert R. Baldini, Member, for a Class BLX, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of RT of Maryland, LLC, **t/a Ruby Tuesday (Clinton)**, 8881 Branch Avenue, Clinton, 20735, transfer from Ruby Tuesday, Inc., t/a Ruby Tuesday (Clinton), Robert R. Baldini, Vice President, Edward J. Gilliss, Assistant Secretary, Donald C. Grauel, Assistant Secretary.
(And)

In the matter of Edward J. Gilliss, Member, Donald C. Grauel, Member, Robert R. Baldini, Member, for a Class BLX, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of RT of Maryland, LLC, **t/a Ruby Tuesday (Greenbelt)**, 8811 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, 20770, transfer from Ruby Tuesday, Inc., t/a Ruby Tuesday (Greenbelt), Robert R. Baldini, Vice President, Edward J. Gilliss, Assistant Secretary, Donald C. Grauel, Assistant Secretary.
(And)

In the matter of Edward J. Gilliss, Member, Donald C. Grauel, Member, Robert R. Baldini, Member, for a Class BLX, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of RT of Maryland, LLC, **t/a Ruby Tuesday (Mitchellville)**, 16451 Excalibur Road, Bowie, 20716, transfer from Ruby Tuesday, Inc., t/a Ruby Tuesday (Mitchellville), Robert R. Baldini, Vice President, Edward J. Gilliss, Assistant Secretary, Donald C. Grauel, Assistant Secretary.
(And)

In the matter of Edward J. Gilliss, Member, Donald C. Grauel, Member, Robert R. Baldini, Member, for a Class BLX, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of RT of Maryland, LLC, **t/a Ruby Tuesday (Upper Marlboro)**, 9680 Lottsford Court, Upper Marlboro, 20774, transfer from Ruby Tuesday, Inc., t/a Ruby Tuesday (Upper Marlboro), Robert R. Baldini, Vice President, Edward J. Gilliss, Assistant Secretary, Donald C. Grauel, Assistant Secretary.
Applicant is represented by Edward J. Gilliss, Esquire.

Edward Gilliss stated that he is an attorney representing the corporation as well as on the liquor license as being a licensee; that there are four restaurants; that they are going through a corporation change from public to private; that the operation has not changed; that the licensees have not changed; that just the corporation has been transferred; that he has never violated any alcoholic beverage laws, but that that the business has had violations of liquor laws through the course of the ownership; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that there will be no change to the operations, hours of operation or anything else; that he is a licensee for convenience; that he stays in touch with the stores and pops in from time to time, but does not spend a consistent set amount of time there; that he has read, understands and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the transfers of license, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of Timothy Dean, Managing-Member, Fisher Dean Jr., Authorized Person, for a new Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of T.D Bowie, LLC, **t/a Timothy Dean Restaurant**, 6133 Highbridge Road, Bowie, 20720.
Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Timothy Dean stated that he is a resident of Lanham; that he grew up in Clinton and parts of Prince George's County; that he started working at Pizza Hutt when he was 14; that he started as a dishwasher and moved up; that he decided he wanted to be a chef; that he moved to working at

Best Western and met chefs who helped to train him; that they taught him how to cook; that he met Chef Dean who mentored him and sent him on to be French trained; that he went on to take over other restaurants; that he trained and worked in France; that he has cooked in New York, Vegas, California; that he opened Odessa; that he has owned and operated restaurants since 2004; that he has a burger place currently in Washington, D.C. that he opened in 2014; that he wants to bring a Michelin star to Prince George's County; that along with all the work he has done he also received a BA in Business from Howard University; that he finished construction of the building in Bowie where he is opening his restaurant; that the layout provided is accurate; that the building was formerly a Mexican Restaurant; that he is hoping to open by the end of the month or beginning of next month; that he is waiting on handmade Amish furniture to open; that this restaurant will be his style of cooking; that it will be well received by the area because of the income levels and the increase in interest in cooking because of the cooking shows that are on these days; that the application is true and correct; that his father is the other owner; that he has his Alcohol Awareness certificate; that he will have 12-15 employees; that they do not plan to open for lunch initially; that he wants to smooth out kinks before they add lunch to their service; that he understands he must notify the Board of any changes in the operating hours; that he hopes to have 120 seats a night; that the dining area seats 120 people; that it I an open kitchen; that a dinner service is expected to take approximately 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes; that he plans to open once the furniture arrives.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Cristian Mendoza.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of Venkatesan Krishnan, Member/Authorize Person, for a new Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of SMV3, LLC, **t/a Amber Spice**, 13524 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, 20707.

Applicant is represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.

Venkatesan Krishnan stated that he is a resident of Silver Springs; that he is a United States citizen; that he has been a resident of 23 years; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that he has not violated any alcoholic beverage laws; that he does not have an interest in any other business with a liquor license; that he will work 60 hours per week; that he's familiar with Rules and Regulations; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol and 18 to serve; named the five acceptable forms of identification; that there are no changes to the application; that he accepts responsibility of the business; that there will be a full menu with over one hundred items; that the restaurant is South of Contee Road and Baltimore Avenue; that it is a commercial area with office buildings around; that he has already been working on renovating the business; that he has put in approximately \$230,000 in renovations already; that it will be Indian cuisine; that he has had good contact with customers; that granting the license would accommodate the public; that he will close at 9:30 p.m.; that he has no plans for entertainment; that it should not affect the community negatively; that they expect alcohol sales to be approximately 20%; that he agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations and ensure the business does as well; that he is the chef at Curry Leaf currently.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Cristian Mendoza.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of Qing Feng Chen, President, Cheng LiZhang, Secretary/Treasurer, for a new Class B, BLX, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of Hook & Reel, Inc., **t/a Hook & Reel**, 6002 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, 20770.

Applicant is represented by Eugene Mark, Jr., Esquire.

Qing Feng Chen stated that she is a resident of Bowie; that she is a registered voter; that she is the President of Hook and Reel Greenbelt, Inc.; that she will work full time at this location for at least 90 days while they get it up and running; that she has held a liquor license previously; that has a financial interest in their Lanham location; that she had read and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that she has not been convicted of a felony; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; that they will card anyone that appears to be under 35; that she has been through Alcohol Awareness training; named the five acceptable forms of identification.

Cheng LiZhang stated that he is a resident of Rockville; that he is the registered Secretary and Treasurer of Hook and Reel Greenbelt, Inc.; that he will work there full time; that he has held an alcoholic beverage license previously in Washington, D.C.; that he has a financial interest in a grocery store that holds a liquor license in Washington, D.C.; that he has read, understands and will abide by the Rules and Regulations; that he has not been convicted of a felony; that you must be 21 to consume alcohol, 18 to serve; that they will card anyone that appears to be under 35; that he has been through Alcohol Awareness training; named the five acceptable forms of identification.

Qing Feng Chen stated that the application is true and correct; that they do not have any plans for a special entertainment permit; that the hours will be 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday; that it will be a seafood restaurant; that it is a good location; that there are other seafood locations around.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Cristian Mendoza.

Qing Feng Chen stated that they expect to have 18 – 20% alcohol sales; that to correct the violation at their current location they have given every server individual cards with a guide to ensure birthdates on identification are valid for the purchase of alcohol.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of Jigar Mehta, Managing Member, of a Class BH, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use of SC Management Largo Drive West, LLC, **t/a Best Western Plus/Hotel Largo**, 9421 Largo Drive, Largo, 20774. Majority stockholder request to voluntarily surrender the alcoholic beverage license.

In response to the objection filed by Jason DeLoach regarding the additional documentation provided by Rachel Hirsch Mr. Graham stated that the additional filings would be considered since it was within the 30-day time-period provided for filings.

Mr. Camacho moved to accept the voluntary surrender of the license, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Miles and Mr. Graham.

In the matter of Leia Burks, Managing Member/Authorized Person, Taseen Abdalbarr, Member/Authorized Person, for a new Class BLX, Beer, Wine and Liquor for the use Center Pocket LC, **t/a Center Pocket Billiards**, 5775 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, 20772.

Continued from September 25, 2018.

Applicant is represented by Linda Carter, Esquire.

Linda Carter, Esquire requested to have the hearing continued as several letters promised in support or no position were to be filed that had not been filed.

Irene Burks stated that she is a resident of Bowie; that she attended the District 5 coffee club to meet with the community in regards to the business that they want to open; that District 5 is the largest with approximately 50-60 members; that they meet every Wednesday; that she explained about the business they want to bring to the area and the liquor license they were seeking to obtain; that she was met with overwhelmingly positivity; that people were interested and wanted to learn how to and have a place to play; that it was a positive meeting overall; that she had scheduled to meet with the Mayor of Upper Marlboro even though it was just outside of the town lines; that the mayor was called out just prior to the meeting on an emergency so she met with the Mayor's Chief of Staff; that she was told since it isn't in Upper Marlboro proper they weren't able to vote yea or nay, but that they stated they were looking forward to it; that even though they weren't pursuing a Special Entertainment Permit they had submitted the security plan to the Prince George's County Police Department and it was deemed satisfactory; that Next Door is a community based app that the opposition had brought up at the last hearing and allows the public to communicate about concerns; that it is able to be viewed by the communities around.

Leia Burks stated that she is a resident of Bowie; that she is more familiar with the Next Door app; that the community can use it to express concerns and important matters in the community; that she found there was an ongoing discussion on the app in opposition; that she chose to join in and introduce herself; that she provided her background in her current business as well as experience in law enforcement; that she also said they want to bring something positive to the area, not negative; that the tone then went from opposition to general support; that there were concerns raised and she had Ms. Burks also come in to introduce herself as well as for both of them to address the concerns; that in relation to the concern with the security plan, they don't want to publicly provide the details of the plan, but that it was approved by the Prince George's County Police Department as being adequate; that people questioning the plan were encourage to contact the Prince George's County Police Department, but that they won't reveal specifics either; that they do not want a Special Entertainment Permit; that they considered the idea of a DJ previously for special events and for their opening, but with the opposition have chosen not to pursue the permit; that in relation to the unsavory parking lot activity they went to the Landlord to discuss the issue; that the Landlord has agreed to bring in additional security to deter pollution, loitering, illegal activity, drinking in the parking lot and other acts; that they had conversations with one of people that were in opposition at the last hearing and she approved of their business model; that she was still concerned about drinking and driving; that she was supposed to come and testify, but was sick; that all the licensees have undergone crowd control training and received certification; that they don't have these issues at their current location and are happy these came to light so that they can better address them prior to having a problem; that the behavior the opposition is mainly concerned about will not allowed; that it is not condoned by them or the rules that govern leagues and tournaments and will get a player suspended; that a liquor license is essential to have a thriving business; that move on is a website that petitions can be created; that there was one made in support and in opposition; that they put out the post on Next Door to introduce themselves and better address concerns; that the opposition created an a position; that in response they made one in support; that they specified that the petition for support was for a liquor license and not just the business and that there would not be a special

entertainment permit; that the opposition listed that they were applying for a special entertainment permit; that they had 168 signatures at last count in support; that there were 48 in opposition; that the name pool hall gives a negative connotation; that they follow the rules; that there will not be minors without adult supervision; that they don't allow parents to just drop minors off; that they are not a day care; that with their junior league now two children, 7 and 9, have received sponsorship by a big name in pool; that they are pro level and are beating adults; that the concept is new to the county; that they will have to see to understand; that 95% of the players that come to the Anne Arundel location live in Prince George's County; that they'd rather see that revenue and business go back into Prince George's County; that they live in Bowie and will make managing the business easier; that they also need a larger space; that many players are booted from other places in favor of other events; that they had agreed to have no dancing, live music, no DJ, no karaoke with DJ assist; no cover charge, no two for one drink specials, no house minimum and not to apply for a special entertainment permit prior to 2020; that they agreed to these conditions with Councilman Mel Franklin; that if someone wants live music they will send them to Nipsey's; that they will allow flyers from Nipsey's to be posted; that the stipulations with Mel Franklin aren't deal breakers to them; that where they are currently send people to places with services they don't offer and they intend to do the same; that they want to participate in National Night Out and invite the Police Department in that night and every night.

Lee Eismann stated that he is resident of Upper Marlboro; that he is not in direct opposition; that he instigated the discussion on Next Door; that he posted the petition on there from Ms. Wiley on Move On; that he also posted 10 questions to the owners on Next Door; that the questions were well received; that his only opposition today is there needs to be more reaching out to the community; that there hasn't really been any; that he wants to make sure people are aware; that there's not enough outreach to tell people that it was coming; that he found out it was coming from Ms. Wiley; that he found out it was coming initially from Ms. Wiley posting the first hearing in next door; that from there he went to the website and found the agendas online; that he moved here in 2014, before that he lived in Virginia and prior to that he was a resident of Southern California for 24 years; that he knows the differences between pool halls and billiard halls; that he lived in Chicago; that in previous places he's lived they didn't have much notice of coming businesses, but they didn't have social media either; that social media was how he found out about this business; that the applicants had talked to the town of Upper Marlboro last week, but there are only 660 people in Upper Marlboro; that his community of Beachtree is much larger; that he wants the surrounding communities notified; that 300 feet north is District 2 which where he lives; that the applicants need to reach out to District 2's coffee club; that Ms. Irene Burks said she would come to the November coffee club; that the community is not in charge of their HOA yet since they're still building; that the developer is in charge; that he is more of a community organizer; that there isn't a residential area around the shopping center; that the closest city or neighborhood would be Upper Marlboro 1 ½ miles away; that it is not a residential area where the business will be; that he is a moderator for his community on Next Door; that he is a software developer by trade; that he wants to see more reaching out to the community around, to the north of the demarcation line of District 5.

Jody Wiley stated that she is a resident of Upper Marlboro; that she was at the previous hearing; that some of the issues were cleared up; that she added the Special Entertainment Permit portion to the petition because it was brought up at the last hearing; that she didn't intend to put any

information out there that was incorrect; that Mr. Moses has his own petition with 13 people in opposition of the coming business; that 75% of the people in opposition are residents of Upper Marlboro and use that shopping center; some were other Prince George's County residents; that she posted a poll in Next Door asking if people were for or against Center Pocket; 36% were for and 64% were against; that there was a lively discussion in there about the business; that there has been more clarity given since the poll; that she doesn't want specifics about the security plan, but that she does want an idea of what it entails; that she only lives 2 miles away and the center has the only other store nearby that's not on the other side of the highway; that the community wants to see more grocery stores not another liquor store; that there is a liquor store in the shopping center and a restaurant with a liquor license; that she also has an issue with their hours; that they aren't family friendly; that she has been a resident for 22 years; that she didn't go to Nipsey's before Mr. Moses took over; that she wasn't aware of a hearing when he took over; that with a pool table people think violence and the issues that come with it; that she didn't intend to put out negativity that was incorrect; that her position has not and will not change; that she doesn't want security plan specifics, but how will they help to protect the community; that the owner's having a background in law enforcement means nothing.

Lonnie Moses, Jr. stated that he is a resident of Gambrills; that he was a resident of Prince George's County for 25 years; that he moved away for personal reasons; that he is retired from the Prince George's County Police Department; that he doesn't want to disrespect anyone; that he wasn't invited to any discussions; that he was the original person in contest of the business; that he is the owner of Nipsey's Bar and Grill; that no one approached him after the last hearing; that he has concerns of drugs, guns and violence he saw in pool halls when he worked with Prince George's County Police Department; that he took the pool tables out of his place; that his restaurant is a full seating place; that he doesn't think it's entirely honest what they're doing; that his security plan isn't a secret; that they went in requesting a special entertainment permit and then withdrew; that people don't do that; that they should look for somewhere else that will accept this; that they have law enforcement experience, but no one can stop issues; they say family friendly, but families aren't staying out until 3 am; that he thought an application said 3 a.m.; that people will be smoking out front; that he has never been to their current location.

Linda Carter, Esquire proffered the contents of the letters they expected to receive prior to the hearing; Councilman Mel Franklin no contest with the stipulations on the license of no Special Entertainment Permit until September 2020, no live band, no DJ, no karaoke with DJ assist, no cover charge, no house minimums, no 2 for 1 drink specials, and no dancing, Delegate Carolyn Howard in full support and Senator Mike Miller either no contest or in support.

Boards Exhibit #1 – Map – Presented by Robert Clark.

Mr. Camacho moved to approve the application, seconded by Ms. Kelsey and made unanimous by Mr. Miles, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Graham.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikole Bennett
Administrative Aide

Adjourned 12:02 p.m.